

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

MCT-01 AID-05 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

PC-05 /131 W

-----041535Z 072766 /41

P R 031650Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5808

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

W

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OF LUSAKA 1567

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH, UK, US, AO, MZ, BC, ZA, SF

SUBJ: PATRIOTIC FRONT'S JOSHUA NKOMO CRITICIZES WESTERN INITIATIVES
FOR PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS:

SUMMARY: ZAPU LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO IN SPEECH JUNE 2 CLAIMED
WESTERN INTERPRETATION OF ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE WAS ONE THAT
PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD NEVER ACCEPT; SPOKE CRITICALLY OF U.K.-U.S.
CONSULTATIVE MISSION; THREATENED PATRIOTIC FRONT INITIATION OF URBAN
VIOLENCE IN RHODESIA; SAID FRONT HAS SET TIME FRAME FOR
ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE WHICH WOULD BE ACHIEVED "IN A MATTER OF
MONTHS NOT YEARS;" CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO EDUCATE
DISPLACED ZIMBABWEAN CHILDREN; AND ADVISED YOUNG AFRICAN
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JOURNALISTS TO THROW OFF THE INFLUENCE OF THE WESTERN PRESS.
END SUMMARY.

1. JOSHUA NKOMO IN AN ADDRESS TO 100 LISTENERS -- MEMBERS OF
THE LUSAKA PRESS CLUB, GUESTS AND SCATTERING OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS --
O
EVENING OF JUNE 2 REFINED MANY OF HIS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED VIEWS

ON RHODESIA. IN THE INTRODUCTORY PORTION OF HIS SPEECH HE ELABORATED AT SOME LENGTH A THESIS THAT SINCE THE IMDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE THE QUESTION OF ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE HAS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT. NOW THE WEST WILL ONLY ACCEPT RHODESIAN, NAMIBIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH WILL LEAVE THESE COUNTRIES UNDER WESTERN INFLUENCE. ACCORDING TO NKOMO, THIS POSITION HAS A LONG HISTORICAL BACKGROUND GOING BACK TO THE 1880 SPLIT UP OF AFRICA WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT EVERYTHING SOUTH OF THE ZAMBEZI WOULD REMAIN UNDER WHITE DOMINATION. NOW THAT ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE HAVE GAINED TRUE INDEPENDENCE, THE WEST IS MANEUVERING TO MAINTAIN ITS HOLD IN THE REMINDER OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. THIS IS WHY AFTER TEN YEARS OF WAR THE WEST IS WORKING FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN ZIMBABWE. HOWEVER, PATRIOTIC FRON WILL NEVER ACCEPT ICDEPENDENCE OF ZIMBABWE WHICH LEAVES IT DEPENDENT ON ANY OUTSIDE FORCE.

2. NKOMO RECOUNTED HIS EARLY MAY MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN WHICH HE SAID HE HAD CONVINCED VANCE THAT U.S. CO-SPONSORSHIP OF A CONFERENCE ON ZIMBABWE WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO DEMAND EQUAL INVOLVEMENT. THIS WOULD MAKE ZIMBABWE A U.N. PROBLEM WHEN IT IS A BRITISH PROBLEM. HE INFERRED THAT THE SUCCESS OF HIS PRESENTATION WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE U.S. SLOWNESS IN NAMING THE SENIOR U.S. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EFFORT. WHEN THE APPOINTMENT WAS FINALLY PUBLICIZED, THE U.S. WAS REPRESENTED BY ITS AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA WHICH REPRESENTED A "DEVALUATION" OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT. NKOMO CLAIMED THAT HE EXTRACTED FROM JOHN GRAHAM AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THEIR RECENT LUSAKA MEETING AGREEMENT THAT THE CONSULTATIVE MISSION WAS NOT A SERIES OF MINI-CONFERENCES AND THAT ANY CONSTITUTIONAL

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DOCUMENT IT PPODUCED COULD NOT BE BILLED AS A "CONSENSUS DOCUMENT". NKOMO WARNED THAT ANY BRITISH EFFORT TO PRESENT A CONSTITUTION BASED ON A CONSENSUS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL BUT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT WOULD PRODUCE A PATRIOTIC FRONT - BRITISH CONFRONTATION. IN SUCH A CASE THE FRONT WOULD FIGHT THE BRITISH.

3. AT SOME LENGTH NKOMO RETURNED TO HIS THEME THAT THE NATIONALISTS STRUGGLE IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST WHITES, IT IS DIRECTED AGAINST IWN DOUGLAS SMITH, THE EVIL MANIFESTATION OF RACISM, IMPERIALISM AND FACISM, AND HIS SUPPORTERS. NOTING THAT THE NATIONALISTS WERE "COLOR BLIND" NKOMO WENT ON TO SAY THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY SMITH, THE "USURPER" OF RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE ON BEHALF OF ALL RHODESIAN WHITES AND BLACKS ALIKE. NKOMO MADE CLEAR THOUGH THAT WHITES GUILT WOULD BE PUNISHED. THEY WOULD BE SUBJECT

TO " POLICE ACTION."

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5809
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
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4. NKOMO STATED THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR RHODESIAN
ATTACKS ON MOZAMBIQUE AND BOTSWANA AND THE THREAT AGAINST ZAMBIA
BECAUSE THE NATIONALISTS WERE OPERATING INSIDE RHODESIA.
RHETORICALLY ASKING WHAT THE MEANING OF OPERATIONAL AREAS WAS,
NKOMO SAID IT MEANT THAT IN THE RHODESIAN OPERATIONAL AREAS ALL
CIVIL, POLICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL HAD BROKEN DOWN.
THIS SITUATION PROVED THAT THE BATTLE WAS BEING FOUGHT IN RHODESIA
NOT IN ADJOINING COUNTRIES. THE FRONT HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO
INITIATE URBAN VIOLENCE BECAUSE IT WOULD DESTROY THE INFRASTRUCTURE
OF ZIMBABWE, BUT THAT IF THEY HAD "TO DESTROY TO REBUILD" THE FRONT
WOULD DO SO. HE INFERRED THAT URBAN VIOLENCE WOULD BE LAUNCHED
SOON BY THE FRONT. AT ANOTHER JUNCTURE NKOMO DENIED THAT THE
NATIONALISTS ARE TERRORISTS. ONLY IAN SMITH COULD BE BILLED AS
A TERRORIST BECAUSE OF THE REGIMEN'S SLAUGHTER OF DEFENSELESS
WOMEN AND CHILDREN. HE SAID THE YOUTH OF ZIMBABWE WERE PAYING A
HEAVY PRICE FOR THE STRUGGLE NOT WHEN THEY REENTERED THE COUNTRY
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AS FREEDOM FIGHTERS, BUT WHEN THEY WERE ESCAPING TO JOIN THE STRUGGLE

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THOUGH HE MENTIONED NO SPECIFIC TIME, NKOMO SAID THAT HE WOULD GO TO THE BUSH AND LEAD THE FORCES.

5. TOWARD THE END OF THE ADDRESS IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER ASSERTION THAT HE WOULD SPELL OUT THE TIMEFRAME FOR ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE, NKOMO STATED THAT THE FRONT HAD SET A FIXED TIME FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THAT IT WOULD BE A MATTER OF "MONTHS NOT YEARS." ASKED TO SPECIFY A DATE NKOMO DECLINED AND SAID IF HE DID THAT THEY WOULD BE WAITING FOR US.

6. ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF NATIONALIST UNITY NKOMO SAID THAT ZAPU AND ZANU HAD COME TOGETHER ON THE BASIS OF AREAS OF AGREEMENT WHICH DID NOT COVER THE WHOLE TABLE, BUT HAD AGREED TO WORK TOWARD UNITY WHICH HE AVERRED IS NOW ALMOST 3/4'S COMPLETE. IN AN ASIDE WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING EASTERN SOCIALIST STATES ARMS SUPPORT, HE SAID THAT SUPPORTERS OF THE STRUGGLE SHOULD NOT USE THEIR SUPPORT TO ADVANCE ONE INDIVIDUAL OVER ANOTHER. THE GOAL OF STRUGGLE IS NOT A MATTER OF THE SUCCESS OF INDIVIDUALS, BUT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF TRUE INDEPENDENCE.

7. AT SOME LENGTH NKOMO EXPOUNDED ON HIS DISTRUST OF WESTERN INITIATIVES. RECALLING VORSTER'S VIENNA REBUFF TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE ABOUT THE NEED FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND VORSTER'S RESPONSE THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD TAKE CARE OF ITS NATIVES, NKOMO SAID HOW COULD THE WEST EXPECT VORSTER TO LEAN ON IAN SMITH. FOR THE WEST TO BELIEVE THAT VORSTER WOULD LEAN ON SMITH WAS LIKE EXPECTING A LAMB TO SEEK A WOLF'S PROTECTION FROM A JACKAL. AFTER REVIEWING WESTERN NON-PERFORMANCE ON OIL SANCTIONS, NKOMO WENT ON TO BLAME WESTERN BANKING, INSURANCE AND TRADING COMPANIES FOR SUPPORTING SMITH'S ECONOMY. IT WAS FROM THESE SOURCES, MOST OF WHICH ARE HEADQUARTERED IN LONDON, THAT RHODESIA GAINED ACCESS TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE NOT ONLY IN POUNDS STERLING AND DOLLARS, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT ALSO FANCIS, MARKS AND OTHER WESTERN CURRENCIES.

8. NKOMO REITERATED HIS CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE OF ZIMBABWEAN CHILDREN UP TO 16 WHO HAVE FLED RHODESIA AND SAID THAT THE NUMBERS INVOLVED WERE IN THE THOUSANDS. AFTER THE AGE OF 16 THEY ARE MEN AND CAN FIGHT, NKOMO OBSERVED .

9. REMARKING THAT AT THE TIME OF THE SOWETO DISTURBANCES HE READ IN AFRICAN PAPERS THAT SOWETO RESIDENTS WERE RIOTERS AND LOOTERS, NKOMO SAID THIS ILLUSTRATED THAT AFRICAN JOURNALISTS ARE TOO WRONG TO ACCEPT VIEWS DISSEMINATED BY WESTERN WIRE SERVICES. HE ASKED YOUNG AFRICAN JOURNALISTS TO BE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR ROLE AS THE MOULDERS AND SHAPERS OF OPINION BEARING IN MIND THEIR SITUATION .

HE URGED THAT WHAT THEY WRITE BE TWISTED IF NECESSARY IN WAYS
FAVORABLE TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. IF THEY CAN'T WRITE SOMETHING
CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE
THEY SHOULD WRITE NOTHING.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH, UK, US, AO, MZ, BC, ZA, SF, PATRIOTIC FRONT, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
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